

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-16 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §112

The independent claims have been amended to more positively recite the reaction vessel and its contents as required by the Examiner. It is submitted that this amendment also removes the Examiner's objection to the claimed "control means".

Furthermore, the independent claims have been amended to recite "analysis item" instead of "mixed liquid" to provide proper antecedent basis for the dependent claims. In addition, the dependent claims have been amended to no longer state that "a plurality of analysis items exist".

The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned with any questions in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 7, 10-11 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Akira (JP 2000-338113). Claims 8-9 and 12-14 stand rejected under

35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 §103(a) as obvious over Akira. These rejections are traversed as follows.

As mentioned in a response filed on November 23, 2007, Akira is not prior art. Akira was published in Japan on December 8, 2000, which is subsequent to the foreign priority dates of the present application. In addition, verified translations of the foreign priority documents were submitted along with the response on November 23, 2007. These documents can be seen in PAIR under the description "Foreign Reference" and dated November 23, 2007, as pointed out in another response filed on February 14, 2008.

Nevertheless, since the Examiner has not acknowledged that the verified translations of the foreign priority documents have been filed, such translations accompany this response. Since Akira is not prior art, it is submitted that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY & MALUR, P.C.

By /Shrinath Malur/
Shrinath Malur
Reg. No. 34,663
(703) 684-1120